



## Gahanna PD Community Bulletin: March 2021

### Gahanna Community Members:

One year ago we embarked into the unknown facing a global pandemic. In the first few days of Ohio's shutdown, we experienced critical shortages of needed supplies, made significant operational changes almost by the minute and faced a great deal of uncertainty with little hope on the horizon. Fast forward to today as our weather warms, we now have essential supplies, multiple vaccines, effective treatments, expansive testing and a path forward. Over this past year we have experienced a number of challenges as a community, and for us, the members of the Division of Police. Despite the challenges we have been blessed to have the support of this great community. We look forward to renewing our community engagement activities such as in-person meetings, Coffee with a Cop, National Night Out, training classes and our Citizen Police Academy. Thank you all for your continued investment in Gahanna and your partnership with the Division of Police.

Jeff Spence  
Chief of Police



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## Summary of Division Activity for February

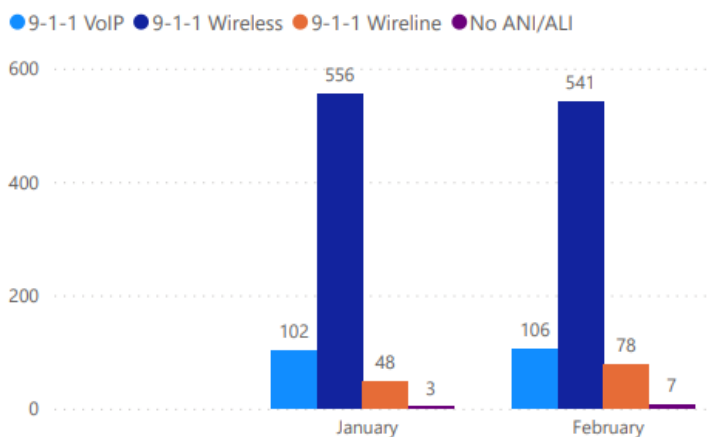
### Support Services – Communications Center:

- Dispatchers handled 735 9-1-1 calls throughout the month. 9-1-1 calls received by the Communications Center were answered in an average of four seconds. No text-to-911 messages were received.
- 76.1% of all 9-1-1 calls received by the Communications Center originated from cellular phones while 14.4% were received from VOIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) telephone lines/systems.
- An additional 2,141 calls were received through the Division's non-emergency lines in February.
- 9-1-1 call volume has decreased approximately 10% over the same time period last year.
- 2,055 calls for service were dispatched during the month.

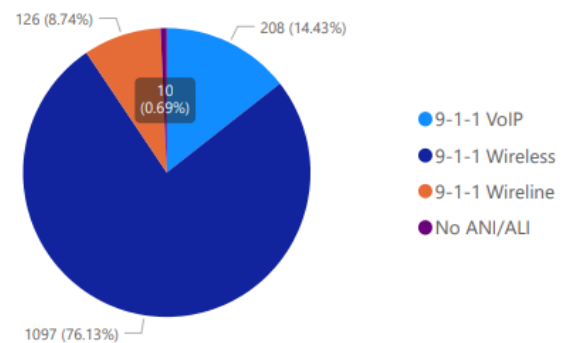
### Gahanna 9-1-1 System Data

Month	9-1-1 Total	9-1-1 Wireless	9-1-1 Wireline	9-1-1 VoIP	No ANI/ALI	Average Answer Delay (Seconds)	Abandoned Calls	Rollover Calls	Non-Emergency Lines	Text to 9-1-1
January	710	556	48	102	3	4.00	80	0	2241	0
February	735	541	78	106	7	4.00	65	0	2141	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1445</b>	<b>1097</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4.00</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4382</b>	<b>0</b>

#### Total 9-1-1 Calls by Month & Type



#### Year-to-Date 9-1-1 Total Calls



## Summary of Division Activity for February

### Field Services

- 338 offense and arrest reports were generated including the following summary:
  - Two homicides occurred during the month.
  - One robbery was reported.
  - 12 theft from vehicle reports were reported.
  - Nine criminal damaging incidents occurred.
  - One burglary and one breaking & entering were reported.
  - One stolen vehicle was reported and subsequently recovered in Columbus.
  - Incidents of assaults (non-domestic) are as follows:
    - Three aggravated assaults including one involving a second victim in the Stoneridge homicide incident.
    - Two simple assaults.
  - Domestic-related responses include:
    - 10 documented disputes that did not involve a criminal offense.
    - Two incidents resulted in arrests.
    - Two offense reports were forwarded for investigation or further prosecutorial review.
  - Drug offenses for the month include:
    - Drug/Narcotics violations – Six offense reports; seven arrests; two warrants issued.
    - Drug equipment violations – Four offense reports; six arrests
    - Four overdose responses occurred during the month with one fatality – a 23-year-old female. Heroin, Fentanyl and opioid prescription medications were involved.

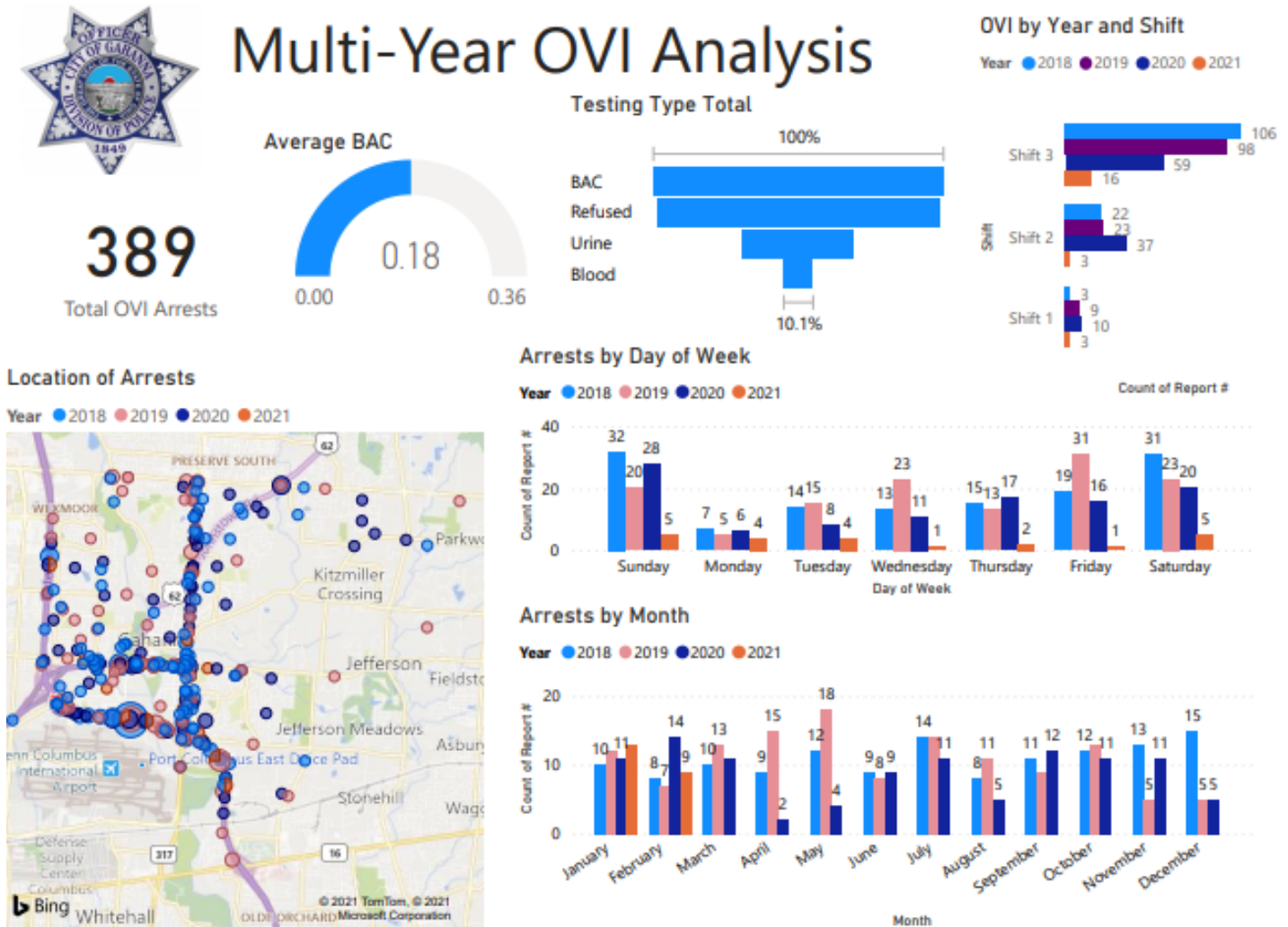
## Summary of Division Activity for February

### Field Services (continued)

- 16 arrest warrant entries were made during the month.
- Officers conducted 415 self-initiated traffic stops with 142 traffic violators issued citations only and an additional ten arrests were made as a result of the stops.
- The Division responded to 45 motor vehicle crashes:
  - No traffic fatalities.
  - One crash was classified as serious injury suspected – 2.2% of crash responses.
  - Four were classified as minor injury suspected – 8.8% of crash responses.
  - Two were classified as injury possible – 4.4% of responses.
  - The remaining 38 crashes were classified as Property Damage Only (PDO) – 84.4% of responses.
  - 13 crashes occurred on IR-270 – 28.8% of all crash responses in Gahanna.
  - One incident involved alcohol and/or drug impairment – 2.2% of crash responses involved a level of impairment.
  - Four commercial vehicles were involved in a crash during the month – 8.8% of crash responses involved a commercial motor vehicle.
  - Distractions were reported in seven of the 45 reported crashes – 15% of all crashes involved some level of operator distraction.
- Patrol officers affected nine arrests for impaired driving (OVI).
  - Four arrestees refused to submit to chemical testing.
  - The laboratory results of bodily fluids submitted in one arrest are pending.
  - The average blood alcohol content for the four arrestees that submitted to testing was .18, or just over twice the legal limit of intoxication in Ohio.



## Summary of Division Activity for February



### Investigative Services

- The Division's detectives were assigned 120 offense and arrest reports requiring investigative follow-up or other administrative action.
- Detectives obtained 16 investigative subpoenas and executed 15 search warrants during the month.

## Stoneridge Plaza Homicide Investigation

On February 26, 2021, at approximately 11:11 p.m., the Gahanna Division of Police responded to a report of shots fired in the 300 block of Stoneridge Lane (parking lot of the movie theater). Upon arrival, the responding officers found a male, Tyrone L. Brown, age 22, of Pickerington, and a female, Cheyenne M. Merriman, age 24 of Pickerington, had sustained several gunshot wounds while seated in their vehicle.

Officers immediately provided medical aid by applying tourniquets and other care while awaiting medics from the Mifflin Township Fire Department to arrive. Medics transported the victims to local hospitals where Brown died a short time later, as the result of his injuries. Merriman has since been released from the hospital after several surgeries. Crime scene investigators recovered numerous expended shell casings that were fired at the victims, at near point blank range.

The Division's detectives are working with area law enforcement agencies to identify a possible suspect. Based on the evidence gathered, the incident appears to be a targeted attack and not a random event.

Anyone with information regarding this incident, please contact the Division's detectives at 614-342-4240. Callers may remain anonymous.



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## Police Seek Help in Identifying Suspect



### CRIME ALERT

During the early morning hours of 03/06/21 the suspect shown above broke into a United Dairy Farmers in our jurisdiction and stole several hundred packs of cigarettes.

*Should you have information regarding the identity of this suspect, please contact the Division's detectives at 614-342-4240*

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## 21st Century Policing Update Mental Wellness Initiative



The Gahanna Division of Police Peer Support Team (PST) is a voluntary group of trained employees - both sworn officers and civilians - that provides mental health assistance in times of crisis for Division staff and their families. The goal of the PST is to minimize the harmful effects of stress, particularly the stress arising from crisis situations and traumatic events. The team utilizes voluntary confidential one-on-one peer support, both pre and post-incident education, and group incident debriefings. Although it is not the

function of the group to replace professional counselors, they do provide crisis intervention and support with a pathway to professional resources when needed. The PST program is one more example of the Division's commitment to the tenants of 21st Century Policing - Pillar Six; Officer Safety and Wellness.





## Gahanna Enhances Emergency Notification with Smart911



Gahanna Officials recently announced the availability of Smart911--a free service that allows individuals and families to subscribe to provide important information to 9-1-1 call takers during an emergency.

Smart911 has been proven nationwide to shorten the response time for emergency calls,," said Angie Collins, Dispatch Communications Supervisor for the Gahanna Division of Police. "The additional information in the Safety Profile allows the dispatcher to get an exact location for the caller. Emergency medical information is also included in the profile, which can be helpful when responding to a car crash, a house fire, or any type of emergency that affects the caller's ability to communicate with 9-1-1. The details provided in the profile help us respond more quickly and efficiently."

Individuals can create a Safety Profile for their household by visiting [smart911.com](http://smart911.com) or using the Smart911 App. The Safety Profile should include any information the subscriber wants the 9-1-1 and response teams to have in the event of an emergency. When a citizen makes an emergency call, their Safety Profile is automatically displayed to the 9-1-1 call taker, allowing them to send the right response teams to the right location with the right information.

For more information, and to create your safety profile, please visit [Gahanna.gov](http://Gahanna.gov) or [smart911.com](http://smart911.com). The Smart911 App is available on the Apple Store or Google Play.

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## FRAUD ALERT: Unemployment Identity Theft



**Ohio** | Department of  
Job and Family Services

The Ohio Attorney General's Office has received a high volume of fraudulent claims regarding Unemployment Benefits issued through the State of Ohio. The Gahanna Division of Police is also experiencing a high number of these calls from concerned residents. In most cases within our community, we are the primary reporting agency on fraud. However, the validity an investigation of any unemployment claim is handled exclusively by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS).

A local police report is not necessary to file an unemployment fraud claim as there is no mechanism in place for the Gahanna Division of Police or the Ohio Attorney General to contact ODJFS on your behalf. If you need to report unemployment fraud, please contact the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) website to file a fraud claim which is the fastest means of notification and initiation of a review on your behalf. If you are advised to file a report, or have other identity theft concerns, please contact us at 614-342-4240. To file a fraud claim: <https://odjfs2.secure.force.com/OUIOFraudReportingPortal>

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Thank you!

GAHANNA DIVISION OF POLICE  
*"To Serve and Protect"*



"The Mission of the Gahanna Division of Police is to serve and protect our diverse community by building partnerships in order to provide professional law enforcement services that safeguard the lives, rights, and property of all."

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